

Meanwhile, at least 35 families of 49 affected by the November 16 tornado have applied for state and federal assistance in Columbus County as of midday today. Easley approved a state disaster declaration on November 17, making grants available to help with items such as home repairs and funeral expenses, and received approval for a disaster declaration from the Small Business Administration for low interest loans to make repairs.

The disaster application center in Columbus County will be open at Riegelwood Baptist Church, 103 Highway 87 North, Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The center will move to St. John Missionary Baptist Church at 484 Money Hole Road in Riegelwood on Monday. The state and SBA will take applications for assistance through Friday of next week between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Outreach teams will also continue to work in the community to make sure that everyone who is eligible for disaster aid has asked for help.

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